

In re Appln. Of: Laura J. Butler
Application No.: 09/395,480

REMARKS

Claims 21-41 are pending in this application, stand rejected, and are at issue herein. Reconsideration of claims 21-41 in view of the following remarks and indication of their allowability at an early date are respectfully solicited.

The Examiner indicated that the Information Disclosure Statements filed on September 1, 2000 and on May 9, 2000, failed to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2) as they did not include a legible copy of each of the U.S. and foreign patents, each publication or that portion which cause it to be listed, and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. The applicant respectfully submits that these two Information Disclosure Statements did comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2) as evidenced by the stamped return receipt postcards, copies of which are included herewith as Exhibits 1 and 2, that clearly indicate that a copy of each of the references cited on the form 1449's were included. The received stamp from the mail room evidences that these copies were received by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

In view of this evidence, the applicant respectfully submits that these Information Disclosure Statements should be considered as a matter of right as they were timely filed prior to examination of this application with the appropriate copies required by 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2). However, if the copies of these references have been lost by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the applicant is willing to resubmit these copies for the Examiner's consideration. The applicant also respectfully submits that such a submission should be without a fee as they were originally timely filed during the period which does not require the payment of any such fee. To allow for timely consideration without unduly delaying the prosecution of this application, the applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to telephone the applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below if a resubmission of these references is required.

The Examiner has rejected claims 21-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Palmer et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,292,166 (hereinafter Palmer et al. '166). The applicant has thoroughly considered the Palmer et al. '166 reference and the Examiner's rationale for application of this reference against claims 21-41, but must respectfully traverse this ground of rejection. Reconsideration of this ground or rejection and indication of the allowability of claims 21-41 in view of the following remarks are therefore respectfully solicited.

Independent claim 21 requires, *inter alia*, the step of examining color depth capabilities of conference participants. The Examiner has suggested that column 11, lines 30-45 of the Palmer et al. '166 reference meets this limitation. However, an examination of this section reveals no examination of the color depth capabilities of the conference participants, but instead discusses an example of the formation of a color ramp by the server with reference to Fig. 6. An examination of Fig. 6 reveals no step of examining the color depth capabilities of the conference participants, but instead merely looks to the server's own pixel depth capabilities and not those of the conference participants.

Specifically, at decision block 155 the server determines whether its pixels are true color. If they are, step 159 requires the server to periodically generate histograms of a captured frame. Finally, step 161 requires the server to form a color ramp and inform clients thereof. As may be clearly seen from an examination of Fig. 6, the server creates the color ramp, regardless of the color depth capabilities of any conference participant, whenever the server pixels are true color. Indeed, it would appear that the process steps of Fig. 6 would be performed even if all of the clients also support true color and there is no need for a color ramp.

As such, the system of Palmer et al. '166 merely makes an assumption that all of the conference participants may not support true color, and therefore may need a color ramp. This is supported by the description in Palmer et al. '166 at column 1, lines 43-53 wherein it is described that "users may not all be working from exactly the same hardware or software display technology ... any new collaborative tool which shares information based on pixels must provide some way to resolve the differences between the pixel formats used on diverse systems." The way in which Palmer et al. '166 accomplishes this is to transmit true color pixel depth from the server and provide color ramps to all of the clients in case they cannot support true color. Conversely, the applicant has utilized a different way that requires examination of the color depth capabilities of the conference participants so that the applicant's system can know what color depth information to transmit to the participants.

Indeed, the second step of independent claim 21 requires transmitting true color graphics if all participants can support true color graphics. Unlike this requirement, the server of Palmer et al. '166 transmits true color even when the pixel format used for display in the client is pseudo

color. Palmer et al. '166, column 11, lines 27-31. Since the system of Palmer et al. '166 transmits true color to clients that cannot support true color, the server must "communicate to a client application using pseudo color pixel format how to convert true color format pixels received from the server applications." Palmer et al. '166, column 11, line 65 – column 12, line 1. However, such a system is undesirable as described by the applicant in the originally filed application on page 45, lines 7-16.

Specifically, the applicant stated "that a display of less than 24bpp will not accurately display 24bpp information. Even 16bpp (32,767 colors or 65,535 colors on NT) cannot display 24 bpp data properly because parts of the value get stripped, resulting in subtle green/blue/or red shifting ..." This problem described by the applicant in the originally filed application is described by Palmer et al. '166 as one of the aspects of its system. Specifically, column 13, lines 54-64 describes a right shift of 4 bits on each 24 bit pixel value to accommodate an index length of 20 bits. As described therein, "In the example embodiment, the 4 bit shift right eliminates the 4 low order bits of true color information regarding the color blue. The color blue information can be effectively reduced in this way because humans are relatively insensitive to distinctions between shades of blue. Accordingly, the elimination of the 4 bits is relatively unimportant to the ultimate viewer of the resulting display." Such color shifting by the client is not required in the system of the present invention that transmits true color graphics if, after examining color depth capabilities of the conference participants, all participants can support true color graphics.

In view of the above, the applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 21 is not anticipated by the teachings or disclosure of Palmer et al. '166. Therefore, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this ground of rejection and indication of the allowability of independent claim 21 and those claims dependent thereon, to wit, claims 22-33, are respectfully solicited.

Claim 22 requires, *inter alia*, mapping true color graphics to closest equivalent in a color pallet of a depth determined by the lowest color depth supported by any participant. To meet this limitation the Examiner cites to column 6, lines 43-60 of Palmer et al. '166. However, an examination of this cited section reveals that the conversion described therein is performed solely within the server based upon dissimilar pixel types of the server's application window and the server's root window, not in relation to any color depth that may or may not be supported by

any participant. Further, the example provided following the cited section beginning at line 61 actually describes conversion from an 8 bit input pixel to a 24 bit value. As described, "The color map entry referenced in this way contains a 24 bit true color value to be substituted for the input 8 bit pixel value." Palmer et al. '166, column 6, lines 65-67. As such, this teaching is completely opposite to mapping true color graphics to the closest equivalent in the color pallet of a depth determined by the lowest color depth supported by any participant. Instead, the system of Palmer et al. '166 maps a low color depth (in the example, 8 bits) to true color, 24 bits. The 24 bit true color information is then transmitted from the server to the conference participants, in which color conversion to a lower color depth may need to be performed using a color ramp. As such, and in view of the complete opposite teaching of Palmer et al. '166, the applicant respectfully submits that claim 22, and those claims dependent thereon, to wit, claims 23 and 24, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of these claims for this additional reason and indication of their allowability at an early date are respectfully solicited.

Claim 25 requires, *inter alia*, the step of re-examining the color depth capabilities of conference participants upon the addition and deletion of conference members. To meet this limitation the Examiner again cites to column 11, lines 25-35, which contains a description of the generation of the color ramp within the server when the server pixels are true color. However, a thorough examination of this section, as well as the other disclosure of Palmer et al. '166 does not reveal any teaching or even suggestion of any regeneration of the color ramp when conference participants are added or deleted. Indeed, the applicant was unable to find any description of the addition or deletion of conference participants. However, since the system of Palmer et al. '166 allows the server to transmit true color data even when conference participants only support pseudo color through the generation and transmission of the color ramp, it would not appear that any recalculation would be required of the color ramp even if additional conference participants are added or deleted. However, since Palmer et al. '166 is completed devoid of any discussion of such activity, any speculation on what might be performed when a conference participant is added or deleted is merely that. As such, the applicant respectfully submits that dependent claim 25 cannot be anticipated by the system of Palmer et al. '166 in view of the complete lack of teaching or even suggestion of the requirements thereof. Therefore, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this ground of rejection for this additional reason and indication of the allowability of claim 25 and those claims dependent thereon, to wit, claims 26-30.

Dependent claim 31 requires, *inter alia*, the step of specifying color depth in drawing order packets identifying the color depth for which these packets were generated. To meet this limitation the Examiner cites to column 11, lines 25-35, which describes the generation of the color ramp by the server when the pixel format is true color. The applicant was unable to find any discussion in Palmer et al. '166 of transmitting a color order packet that has specified therein the color depth for which these packets were generated. As such, the applicant respectfully submits that claim 31 is in condition for allowance for this additional reason. Reconsideration of claim 31 and indication of its allowability at an early date are therefore respectfully solicited.

Independent claim 34 requires, *inter alia*, the step of examining color depth capabilities of conference participants. As such, the applicant respectfully submits that claim 34 is in condition for allowance for at least the reason discussed above with regard to independent claim 21 containing the same method step. That is, the Palmer et al. '166 reference does not describe or even suggest examination of the color depth capabilities of the conference participants. Instead, the server of Palmer et al. '166 merely transmits the display information at whatever color depth it is capable of supporting when this color depth is true color, the server also transmits a color ramp that will allow any conference participants who do not support true color to be able to display the information. As such, the applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 34 is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of claim 34 and those claims dependent thereon, to wit, claims 35-41, and indication of their allowability at an early date are respectfully solicited.

Independent claim 34 also requires the step of calculating the minimum color depth supported by any conference participant. However, as discussed above, the system of Palmer et al. '166 does not calculate a minimum color depth supported by any conference participant, but instead merely transmits the highest color depth supported by the server along with a color ramp that will allow conference participants to convert this true color data for display on the conference participant's display screen.

Independent claim 34 also requires the step of transmitting graphics at the minimum color depth supported by any conference participant to all conference participants. Unlike this requirement of transmitting graphics at the minimum color depth supported by any conference

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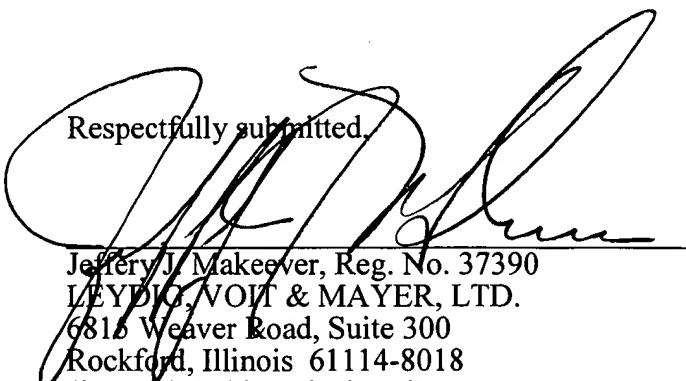
participant to all of the conference participants, the system of Palmer et al. '166 takes an opposite approach. The server of Palmer et al. '166 transmits full true color display data to all of the conference participants regardless of whether they can support true color or not. See Palmer et al. '166, column 11, lines 28-31, line 65 – column 12, line 1. This is completely opposite to the requirements of independent claim 34 that, instead, requires transmission of the minimum color depth supported by any conference participant to all of the conference participants.

In view of the above, the applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 34 is not anticipated by Palmer et al. '166. Reconsideration of this ground of rejection and indication of the allowability of independent claim 34 and those claims dependent thereon at an early date are respectfully solicited.

In view of the above the applicant respectfully submits that claims 21-41 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of claims 21-41 in view of the foregoing remarks and indication of the allowability thereof at an early date are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a telephonic conversation will aid in the resolution of any issues not resolved herein, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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